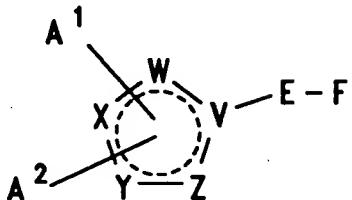


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I, or a salt or  
5 prodrug thereof:



(1)

wherein the broken circle represents two non-adjacent  
15 double bonds in any position in the five-membered ring;

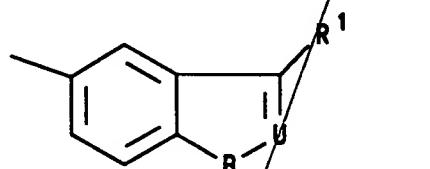
two, three or four of V, W, X, Y and Z  
represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon  
provided that, when two of V, W, X, Y and Z represent  
nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon, then the  
20 said nitrogen atoms are in non-adjacent positions within  
the five-membered ring;

A<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of,  
hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen,  
cyano, trifluoromethyl, -OR<sup>x</sup>, -SR<sup>x</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>CORY,  
25 -NR<sup>x</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>y</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>y</sup>, and -NR<sup>x</sup>CTNR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>;

A<sup>2</sup> represents a non-bonded electron pair when  
four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the other  
represents carbon; or, when two or three of V, W, X, Y  
and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent  
30 carbon, A<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of  
hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen,  
cyano, trifluoromethyl, -OR<sup>x</sup>, -SR<sup>x</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>CORY,  
-NR<sup>x</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>y</sup>, -NR<sup>x</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>y</sup>, and -NR<sup>x</sup>CTNR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>;

E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

F represents a group of formula

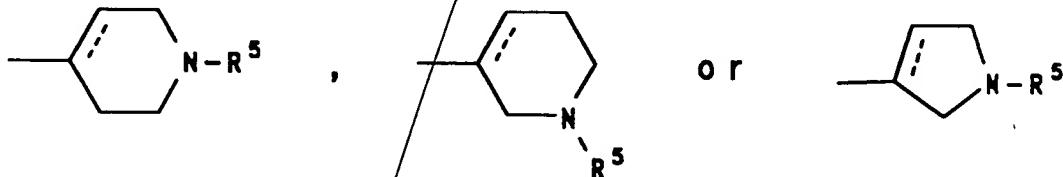


U represents nitrogen or  $C-R^2$ ;

B represents oxygen, sulphur or  $N-R^3$ ;

$R^1$  represents  $-CH_2-CHR^4.NR^6R^7$  or a group of

15 formula



in which the broken line represents an optional chemical  
25 bond;

$R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

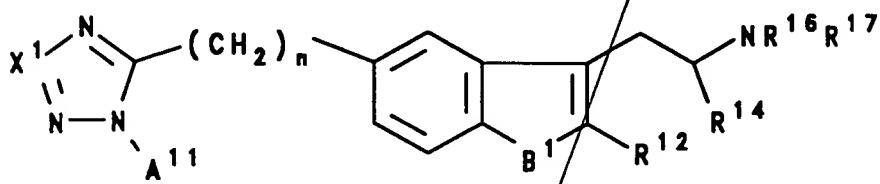
$R^x$  and  $R^y$  independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or  $R^x$  and  $R^y$  together represent a  $C_{2-6}$  alkylene group;

$R^z$  represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group;

T represents oxygen, sulphur or a group of formula  $=N.G$ ; and

G represents hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group or an electron-withdrawing group.

2. A compound according to claim 1  
5 represented by formula IIIA, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IIIA)

15 wherein

X<sup>1</sup> represents nitrogen or A<sup>12</sup>-C;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

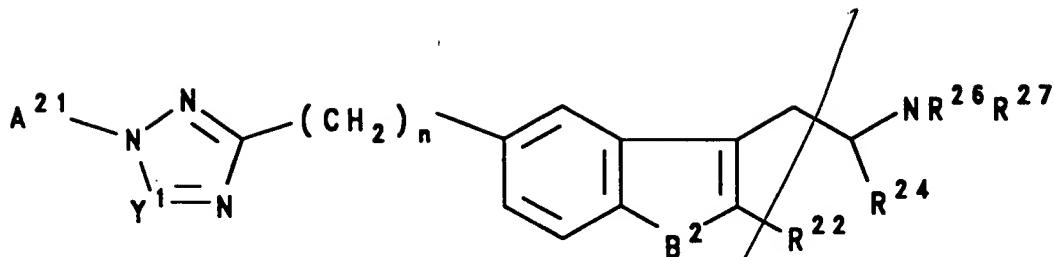
B<sup>1</sup> represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R<sup>13</sup>;

20 A<sup>11</sup> and A<sup>12</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio and -NR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>;

25 R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>16</sup> and R<sup>17</sup> independently represent hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and

30 R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> together represent a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylene group.

3. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IIB, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(II B)

10 wherein

Y<sup>1</sup> represents nitrogen or A<sup>22</sup>-C;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

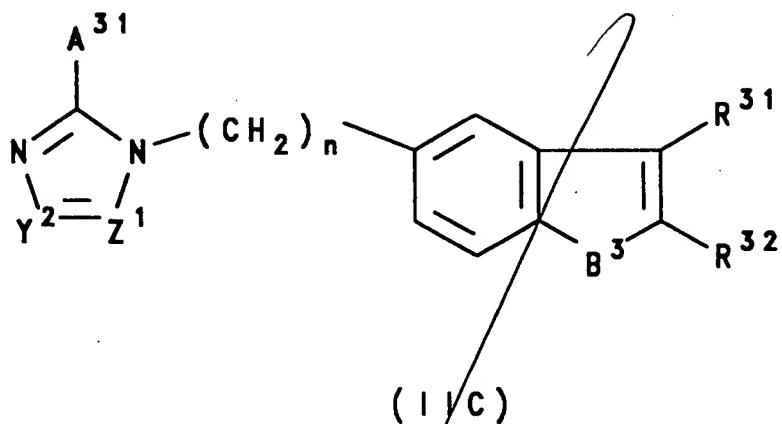
B<sup>2</sup> represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R<sup>23</sup>;

A<sup>21</sup> and A<sup>22</sup> are independently selected from the  
15 group consisting of C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl,  
C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>  
heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  
any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and  
hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy,  
20 C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio and -NR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>;

R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>26</sup> and R<sup>27</sup> independently represent  
hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and

25 R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> independently represent hydrogen,  
hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> together  
represent a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylene group.

4. A compound according to claim 1  
represented by formula IIC, and salts and prodrugs  
thereof:



wherein

$Y^2$  represents nitrogen or  $A^{32}-C$ ;

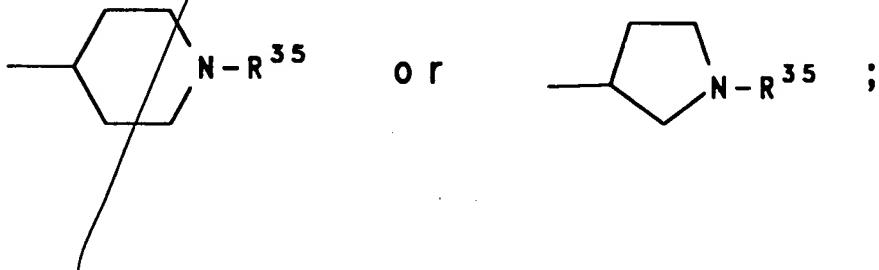
$Z^1$  represents nitrogen or CH;

$n$  is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

15            $B^3$  represents oxygen, sulphur or  $N-R^{33}$ ;

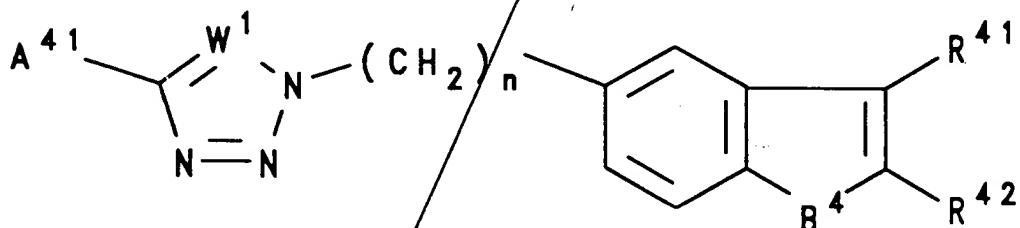
$A^{31}$  and  $A^{32}$  are independently selected from the  
group consisting of  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl,  
 $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$   
20           heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  
any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and  
hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy,  
 $C_{1-6}$  alkylthio and  $-NR^xR^y$ ;

25            $R^{31}$  represents  $-CH_2\cdot CHR^{34}\cdot NR^{36}R^{37}$  or a group of  
formula



$R^{32}$ ,  $R^{33}$ ,  $R^{34}$ ,  $R^{35}$ ,  $R^{36}$  and  $R^{37}$  independently represent hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and  
5  $R^x$  and  $R^y$  independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or  $R^x$  and  $R^y$  together represent a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylene group.

10 5. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IID, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IID)

wherein

20  $W^1$  represents nitrogen or C-A<sup>42</sup>;  
 $n$  is zero, 1, 2 or 3;  
25  $B^4$  represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R<sup>43</sup>;  
A<sup>41</sup> and A<sup>42</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio and -NR<sup>x</sup>R<sup>y</sup>;

30 R<sup>41</sup> represents -CH<sub>2</sub>.CHR<sup>44</sup>.NR<sup>46</sup>R<sup>47</sup> or a group of formula



10                   R<sup>42</sup>, R<sup>43</sup>, R<sup>44</sup>, R<sup>45</sup>, R<sup>46</sup> and R<sup>47</sup> independently represent hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and  
R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> together represent a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylene group.

15                 6. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

2-[5-(2-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

2-[5-(1-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

25                 N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(tetrazol-2-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

30                 N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(tetrazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
yl]ethylamine;  
3-(2-aminoethyl)-5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-yl)-  
benzo[b]thiophene;  
5 3-(2-aminoethyl)-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)-  
benzo[b]thiophene;  
3-[2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl]-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-  
yl)benzo[b]thiophene;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-  
10 3-yl]ethylamine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
yl]ethylamine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
yl]ethylamine;  
15 N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-ethyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-  
3-yl]ethylamine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-ethyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-  
3-yl]ethylamine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
20 3-yl]ethylamine;  
→1-methyl-4-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
yl]piperidine;  
1-methyl-4-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
yl]piperidine;  
25 →4-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;  
→4-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;  
3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;  
1-methyl-3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
30 3-yl]pyrrolidine;  
4-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;  
4-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;  
1-methyl-4-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;  
1-methyl-4-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
35 3-yl]piperidine;

1-methyl-3-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]pyrrolidine;  
1-methyl-3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]pyrrolidine;  
5 1-methyl-3-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;  
1-methyl-3-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]pyrrolidine;  
10 1-methyl-3-[5-(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]pyrrolidine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-aminoimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]ethylamine;  
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-aminoimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-  
3-yl]ethylamine;  
15 N-methyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-  
y1]ethylamine;  
and salts and prodrugs thereof.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an  
effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in  
20 association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or  
excipient.

8. A method for the treatment and/or  
prevention of clinical conditions for which a selective  
agonist of 5-HT<sub>1</sub>-like receptors is indicated, which  
method comprises administering to a patient in need of  
such treatment an effective amount of a compound  
according to claim 1.

Add  
Add C

- acelc  
C'